

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 14, 15, and 18-23 are pending in this case. Claims 14, 18, 19, and 20-23 are amended and Claims 16 and 17 are canceled by the present amendment. The changes to Claims 14, 18, 19, and 20-23 correct dependencies or matters of form and are otherwise supported in the originally filed disclosure at least by originally filed Claims 1-3 and 5-7. Thus, no new matter is added. Further, this response is properly filed under 37 C.F.R. § 116(b)(1).

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 14-16, 18, and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Watanabe (U.S. Patent No. 7,027,084), in view of Yamagishi (U.S. Patent No. 6,327,001), further in view of Misawa (U.S. Patent No. 7,136,102); and Claims 17 and 19 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

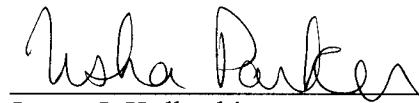
Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowability of Claims 17 and 19.

Claim 14 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 16 and Claim 17, which was indicated as allowable, and Claim 19, which was indicated as allowable, is rewritten in independent form.

In view of the present amendments, whereby independent Claims 14 and 19 recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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